

## Message Text

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SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05

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DRAFTED BY OSD:RCLARKE

APPROVED BY ACDA/IR:DKLEIN

C:WSHINN

EUR/RPM:GCHRISTIANSON

OSD:LMICHAEL

JCS:WWOOD

ACDA/IR:DLINEBAUGH

PM/DCA:CFLOWERREE

NSC:SHADLEY

S/S - MR. LUERS

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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: UK QUESTIONS ON AIR MANPOWER

REF: A. NATO 7008 B. STATE 263866 C. STATE 20905

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1. WE WISH TO THANK THE UK FOR THE OBVIOUSLY THOUGHTFUL

REVIEW OF OUR DECEMBER SECOND PAPER REFLECTED IN THEIR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS. MISSION MAY DRAW UPON MATERIAL HEREIN, IN REF C, AND IN RESPONSE TO FRG AND DUTCH QUESTIONS, (SEPTTEL) IN PROVIDING ANSWERS TO THE UK.

2. EFFECT ON SOVIET AIR FORCES. AS YET, WE ARE UNCERTAIN OF THE PRECISE EFFECT THAT THE SOVIET AIRCRAFT MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WILL HAVE ON AIR MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS. BUT IN ANY CASE A CEILING ON OR REDUCTION OF SOVIET AIR MANPOWER WOULD PUT AT LEAST SOME CONSTRAINT ON SOVIET AIR MODERNIZATION POTENTIAL. (FYI. A STUDY ASSESSING THIS MODERNIZATION PROGRAM AND ITS EFFECTS ON SOVIET AIR MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY WITHIN THE US INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. WHEN COMPLETE, THE RESULTS OF THIS STUDY WILL BE FORWARDED. IN ADDITION, WE ARE POUCHING TO DR. LIGERE A US INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ANALYSIS OF HOW THE SOVIETS MIGHT TAKE AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS. MISSION SHOULD UTILIZE THESE STUDIES AS IT DEEMS BEST. END FYI.)

3. EFFECT ON US AIR FORCE IN EUROPE.

A. US AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS WILL BE ESTABLISHED AT A LEVEL WHICH DOES NOT REQUIRE WITHDRAWAL OF US TACTICAL FIGHTERS IN EXCESS OF THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH OPTION III (IF IT IS PLAYED).

B. CIVILIANIZATION. WHAT IS AND IS NOT CIRCUMVENTION WILL DEPEND UPON THE LANGUAGE ULTIMATELY AGREED. IT IS OUR DESIRE TO AVOID LANGUAGE THAT WOULD CONSTRAIN THE EMPLOYMENT OF NON-MILITARY PERSONNEL IN SUPPORT OF CERTAIN MILITARY FUNCTIONS.

C. AS TO SPECIFIC PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS, WE HAVE COMMENTED ON THIS IN REF C.

D. THE EFFECT ON RECEPTION CAPABILITY AND THE EXTENT OF DEGRADATION IN OTHER AREAS IS, OF COURSE, DEPENDENT UPON THE PERCENTAGE REDUCTION AND STRUCTURE AT THE TIME OF THE REDUCTION. ONCE DECISIONS ON NUNN AMENDMENT ACTIONS ARE TAKEN WE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A MORE ACCURATE  
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ESTIMATE. WE CAN STATE, HOWEVER, THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF A READY RECEPTION CAPABILITY IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE IN OUR VIEW OF USAF EMPLOYMENT IN EUROPE. DEGRADATION IN CURRENT MODES OF RECEPTION CAPABILITY, SHOULD IT BE NECESSARY, COULD CONCEIVABLY BE OFFSET BY CIVILIANIZATION, MODIFYING HOST SUPPORT OR IMPROVED CONCEPTS OF PRE-PACKAGED BASE SUPPORT RECEPTION TEAMS DESIGNED FOR RAPID INSERTION.

4. LINK WITH OPTION III. IF AN AFFIRMATIVE DECISION WERE MADE TO REDUCE AIRCRAFT ALONG THE LINES OF THE OPTION III PROPOSAL, WE WOULD MAINTAIN THAT THE AIR MANPOWER ASSOCIATED WITH THE WITHDRAWN AIRCRAFT WOULD BE COUNTED AS PART OF US PHASE I MANPOWER REDUCTIONS. THAT IS, WE WOULD COUNT SOME 1,500 SPACES FROM OPTION III AS PART OF OUR AIR MANPOWER REDUCTION. AN "UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE" CAPABILITY DOES NOT REFER TO DUAL CAPABLE AIRCRAFT. THE DESIGNATION "UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE" CAPABILITY REFERS TO A SPECIAL UNIT WITH AIRCRAFT SUCH AS MODIFIED C-130'S WHICH COULD SUPPORT COVERT OPERATIONS BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

5. LINK WITH THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT. IT WOULD BE OUR PREFERENCE TO OBTAIN EASTERN AGREEMENT TO A RATHER SPECIFIC NOTION OF THE COMMON CEILING. THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT IS A MATTER CENTRAL TO MBFR AND SHOULD BE ADDRESSED SEPARATELY, NOT IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR AIR MANPOWER PROPOSALS. KISSINGER

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